Pending Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) An electronic commerce system, which comprises:

a plurality of customer facing <u>utility</u> systems, each of said customer facing <u>utility</u> systems being adapted to communicate with customer systems, each of said customer facing <u>utility</u> systems having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said customer facing <u>utility</u> system and read-only data; and,

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of any one of said customer facing <u>utility</u> systems to the authoritative data of each of the other customer facing <u>utility</u> systems.

2. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, including:

a firm side system, said firm side system having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said firm side system and read-only data;

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of said firm side systems to the read-only data of each of said customer facing <u>utility</u> systems.

3. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 2, including:

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of any one of said customer facing <u>utility</u> systems to the read-only data of firm side system.

4. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, including:

a plurality of street side systems, each of said street side systems being adapted to communicate with street systems, each of said street side systems having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said street side system and read-only data; and,

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of any one of said street side systems to the authoritative data of each of the other street side systems.

5. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 4, including:

a firm side system, said firm side system having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said firm side system and read-only data;

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of said firm side systems to the read-only data of each of said street side systems.

6. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 5, including:

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of any one of said street side systems to the read-only data of said firm side system.

7. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 5, including:

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of any one of said street side systems to the read-only data of each of said customer facing utility systems.

8. (Currently amended) An electronic commerce system, which comprises:

a plurality of customer facing utility systems, each of said customer facing utility systems being adapted to communicate with customer systems, each of said customer facing utility systems including means for processing customer orders received from customer systems and means for processing customer inquiries received from customer systems, and each of said customer facing utility systems having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said customer facing utility system and read-only data; and,

means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of any one of said customer facing utility systems to the authoritative data of each of the other customer facing utility systems.

9. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 8, including:

a firm side system, said firm side system having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said firm side system and read-only data;

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of said firm side systems to the read-only data of each of said customer facing utility systems.

10. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 9, including:

means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of any one of said customer facing utility systems to the read-only data of firm side system.

3

11. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 8, including:

a plurality of street side systems, each of said street side systems being adapted to communicate with street systems, each of said street side systems including means for executing orders communicated from a customer facing utility system, and each of said street side systems having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said street side system and read-only data; and,

means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of any one of said street side systems to the authoritative data of each of the other street side systems.

12. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 11, including:

a firm side system, said firm side system having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said firm side system and read-only data;

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of said firm side systems to the read-only data of each of said street side systems.

13. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 12, including:

means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of any one of said street side systems to the read-only data of said firm side system.

14. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 12, including:

means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of any one of said street side systems to the read-only data of each of said customer facing utility systems.

15. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said means for processing customer orders includes:

means for creating a transaction record for said order; and,

means for writing said transaction record to the authoritative data associated with said customer facing utility system.

4

16. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said means for responding to customer inquiries includes:

means for aggregating transaction records in said authoritative data to determine status of a transaction.

17. (Currently amended) An electronic commerce system, which comprises:

a plurality of customer facing utility systems, each of said customer facing utility systems being adapted to communicate with customer systems, each of said customer facing utility systems including means for processing customer orders received from customer systems and means for processing customer inquiries received from customer systems, and each of said customer facing utility systems having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said customer facing utility system and read-only data;

a plurality of street side systems, each of said street side systems being adapted to communicate with street systems, each of said street side systems including means for executing orders communicated from a customer facing utility system, and each of said street side systems having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said street side system and read-only data; and,

means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of any one of said street side systems to the authoritative data of each of the other street side systems; and,

means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of any one of said customer facing utility systems to the authoritative data of each of the other customer facing utility systems.

18. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 17, including:

a firm side system, said firm side system having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said firm side system and read-only data;

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of said firm side system to the read-only data of said customer facing utility system and said street side system;

means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of said customer facing utility systems to said read-only data of said firm side system; and,

5

means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of said street side system to said read-only data of said firm side system.

19. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said means for processing customer orders includes:

means for creating a transaction record for said order; and,

means for writing said transaction record to the authoritative data associated with said customer facing utility system.

20. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said means for responding to customer inquires includes:

means for aggregating transaction records in said authoritative data associated with said customer facing utility system to determine status of a transaction.

21. (Currently amended) A method of processing customer transactions, which comprises the steps of:

receiving a customer transaction request at one customer facing utility system of a plurality of customer facing utility systems;

creating a record of said transaction request;

writing said transaction request record to data storage associated with said one customer facing utility system;

replicating said transaction request record to data storage data associated with each of the other customer facing utility systems of said plurality of customer facing utility systems:

sending said transaction request from said one customer facing utility system to one of a plurality of street side systems;

executing said transaction request at said one street side system;

creating a record of said transaction execution;

writing said transaction execution record to data storage associated with said one street side system; and,

replicating said transaction execution record to data storage associated with each of said customer facing utility systems.

6

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said transaction request is a buy order.

24. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said transaction request is a sell order.

25. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said transaction request is a cancel order.

26. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said transaction execution includes the step of filling an order.

27. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 21, including the steps of:

   receiving a customer transaction inquiry at one of said customer facing utility systems;

   determining status of a transaction based upon transaction records in the data storage associated with said one customer facing utility system.

28. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said customer facing utility systems is adapted to receive asynchronous communications from said customer systems.

29. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, including means for routing communication between one of said customer systems and one of said customer facing utility systems.

30. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, including means for connecting said customer facing utility systems to a network of customer systems.

31. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 30, wherein said means for connecting said customer facing <u>utility</u> systems to a network of customer systems includes a gateway.

32. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein each of said customer facing <u>utility</u> systems is adapted to receive asynchronous communications from said customer systems.

33. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 8, including means for routing communication between one of said customer systems and one of said customer facing <u>utility</u> systems.

34. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 8, including means for connecting said customer facing <u>utility</u> systems to a network of customer systems.

35. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 34, wherein said means for connecting said customer facing <u>utility</u> systems to a network of customer systems includes a gateway.

36. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein said means for aggregating transaction records includes logic for determining a best estimate of said status of said transaction.

37. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 36, wherein said logic includes means for resolving inconsistencies between transaction records.

38. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein each of said customer facing <u>utility</u> systems is adapted to receive asynchronous communications from said customer systems.

39. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 17, including means for routing communication between one of said customer systems and one of said customer facing <u>utility</u> systems.

40. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 17, including means for connecting said customer facing utility systems to a network of customer systems.

41. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 40, wherein said means for connecting said customer facing utility systems to a network of customer systems includes a gateway.

42. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 20, wherein said means for aggregating transaction records includes logic for determining a best estimate of said status of said transaction.

43. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 42, wherein said logic includes means for resolving inconsistencies between said transaction records.

44. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 21, including resolving inconsistencies between transaction request records and transaction execution records replicated to said data storage associated with said customer facing utility systems.

9